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Title: Need to extend a package of incentives for promoting industrial development in Punjab as done in some States.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (SANGRUR): The Central Government has granted special package of incentives such as income tax and excise duty exemptions to companies and also capital investment subsidy for the development of new and existing industrial units in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir. The grant of these special incentives have already affected the industrial growth in Punjab as the industrialists of Punjab are induced and tempted to shift to neighbouring States. The industry in Punjab is already reeling under pressure of global competition and therefore, dis-incentives for Punjab would further lead to much wider ramifications like large-scale unemployment and rendering existing industry totally un-competitive. There are already about 30 lakh unemployed youth in Punjab and the population of Punjab is growing two per cent every year. The traditional agricultural sector in Punjab having already reached the saturation point cannot sustain the population in a meaningful and gainful manner. Only rapid industrialisation can generate new employment opportunities and help to ensure growth of income and prosperity in the State. I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide the same industrial incentive package for Punjab which have been allowed to its neighbouring States.

श्री अ्विनाश रा्य खन्ना (होश्ियारपुर) : मैं भी अपने आप को इस मामले से एसोशिएट करता हूं ।